Bhagwat Geeta Festival at Kurukshetra

4158. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a suggestion has been received that instead of organizing an annual Mahabharat Festival at Kurukshetra, it would be more appropriate to have a Bhagwat Geeta Festival; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mahabharata Utsav—Geeta Jayanti Samaroh was organized by the Department in December, 2002 to coincide with and supplement the annual Geeta Jayanti Samaroh organized at Kurukshetra by the State Government.

Facilities to Temple at Tanjavour

4159. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken to further improve facilities at the magnificent temple at Tanjavour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The preservation, conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments is an ongoing process, subject to availability of resources and manpower. The works carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India to further improve the facilities at Brihadishwara Temple at Tanjavour include :

(i) underground drainage to remove storm water;
(ii) Damaged/eroded bricks of pradakshina patha have been replaced;
(iii) soak-pit has been provided for abhishekha water at varahi shrine;
(iv) drinking water facility, shoe repository and prasada stall have been provided;
(v) landscaping has been done by providing lawns etc.;
(vi) Temple is illuminated during the night;
(vii) sculptures have been displayed in Mahamandapa;
(viii) Amman shrine has been air conditioned;
(ix) coir mat has been provided on pradakshina patha all around the monument;

(x) signage and cultural boards have been provided.

Duty-free shops at sea-ports

4160. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no duty-free shops in any Indian port;

(b) whether Government propose to set up duty-free shops at some of the sea-ports;

(c) if so, the names of such sea-ports; and

(d) by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Presently, there is no duty-free shop at any of the sea-ports in India.

(b) and (c) ITDC is exploring possibility of setting up of a Duty-Free Shop at Tuticorin Sea-Port.

(d) It is not possible at this stage to indicate any time frame in this regard.

Research on Utilisation of Rain Water

4161. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE :

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to promote the research on utilization of unutilized rain water to tackle the problems of water crisis in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The National Water Policy envisages need for intensifying research efforts in the areas of water harvesting and ground water recharge, water conservation, better water management practices and improvements in operational technology among others. The Government is also promoting rain water harvesting technology for utilization of rain water. Percolation tanks, check dams, gabion structures, dug well recharge structure, recharge shafts, roof top rain water collection are some of the means of rain water harvesting. Various innovations in water conservation by augmentation, efficient utilisation and water quality preservation have been